

Reasons for Allowance

This action supersedes the action dated September 4, 2008, which contained errors regarding the allowed claims.

Claims 1, 4-13, 16-25 and 28-36 are allowable as evident by applicant's amendment filed 07/22/2008 (Claims are renumbered as 1-30, respectively).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant application is deemed to be directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention in closest prior arts of record. The improvement comprises the steps of transmitting grant messages to a number of remote nodes, wherein a grant message for a specified remote node assigns a start time and a duration of a transmission timeslot in which the specified remote node may transmit a upstream data burst; and receiving a number of upstream data bursts, wherein the time gap between two consecutive upstream data bursts is less than the summation of a default laser turn-on time, a default laser turn-off time, an automatic gain control (AGC) period, and a clock and data recovery (CDR) period; wherein a preceding upstream data burst's laser turn-off period overlaps with a subsequent data burst's laser turn-on period; wherein the non-overlapping portion of the preceding data burst's laser turn-off period is equal to or greater than twice the allowed maximum jitter of the round-trip time between the central node and a remote node; and wherein the non-overlapping portion of the subsequent data burst's laser turn-on period is equal to or greater than twice the allowed maximum jitter of the round-trip time between the central node and a remote node.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MAXWELL A. CLARK whose telephone number is (571) 270-1956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30A.M. to 5P.M. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on (571) 272-3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maxwell A. Clark/
Examiner, Art Unit 2416

/Kwang B. Yao/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2416